

Mark 6

Lesson for Sunday, July 9, 2023

CHAPTER SUMMARY: The people of Jesus's hometown reject Him. Jesus sends out His disciples on a mission of preaching and healing. Herod has John the Baptist beheaded. Jesus feeds the 5000 and walks on water.

1. The malice of the Nazarenes (vs. 1-6a)
 - a. Their hostility (vs. 1-3)
 - b. His helplessness (vs. 4-6a)
2. The mission of the Twelve (vs. 6b-13)
 - a. Their assignments (vs. 6b-11)
 - b. Their accomplishments (vs. 12-13)
3. The martyrdom of John the Baptist (vs. 14-29)
 - a. John is misunderstood by Herod Antipas (vs. 14-16)
 - b. John is mistreated by Herod Antipas (vs. 17-20)
 - c. John is murdered by Herod Antipas (vs. 21-29)
4. The miracles of Jesus (vs. 30-56)
 - a. Feeding of the 5000 (vs. 30-44)
 - b. Walking on water (vs. 45-52)
 - c. Healing the multitude (vs. 53-56)

INTRODUCTION: Feeding of the 5000 (vs. 30-44)

- ⇒ What do you think is Jesus's greatest miracle? Is there one you would say is more important than the others? *Goal is to simply have a discussion...*
- ⇒ There is only one miracle that is recorded in all four of the gospels – the feeding of the 5000. That is our text for this lesson.
- ⇒ There are two primary lessons from this text: (1) Jesus is continuing to demonstrate through His miracles that He is the Messiah. (2) Jesus was teaching His disciples about what it takes to accomplish spiritual work, primarily that the work of God is primarily spiritual and cannot be accomplished with human efforts alone. Our human resources are woefully inadequate to meet the needs of this world.
- ⇒ In this text we discover three essentials for effective ministry and evangelism.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Essential 1: You must see the people and have compassion (vs. 30-34, 36).
 - a. Mark paints for his readers a stark contrast between how Jesus saw the people and how the disciples saw them.
 - b. Verses 30-32: The disciples returned to Jesus after being away on a short-term mission trip (vs. 7-13).
 - i. Vs. 30: While they were excited to share with Jesus all that they had done, they were obviously tired from the work and needed a break.
 - ii. Vs. 31: Jesus encourages them to go to an area in the desert where they could escape the crowd and get some rest.
 - iii. Vs. 32: They headed out.
 - c. Verse 33: This scene reminds us of the paparazzi chasing down a movie star on the street. Jesus and His disciples were in demand! People wanted to be near them.
 - d. Verse 34 & 36: Two views of the people are on full display in these verses.
 - i. The disciples had their eyes on a vacation. They wanted to get away. When they finally saw the crowd, their solution was simple, "Send them away" (vs. 36).
 - ii. Jesus had His eyes on the crowd and "was moved with compassion" (vs. 34).
 - e. What do we learn from these different views?
 - i. Both saw the people, but Jesus really saw them! Jesus saw opportunity and the disciples saw an obstacle keeping them from their agenda.

- ii. Jesus prioritized the spiritual. What was the problem? According to the disciples, the people were hungry and there were no places for them to buy food (vs. 36). But Jesus had a completely different view. Read verse 34 again. Jesus doesn't see their physical hunger, He sees their spiritual hunger.
 - iii. Jesus was moved by the spiritual needs of others. The word "compassion" means to yearn in one's bowels. It is a deep-seated emotion. One part of the definition is a heart which mercy resides. It is an emotion that moves one to action.
 - iv. Do you see the people? How do you see them? Do the spiritual needs of others move you? Do you prioritize the spiritual over the physical, or the opposite? How much do the spiritual needs of others move you?
- 2. Essential 2: You must accept responsibility to minister (vs.37).
 - a. Jesus must have shocked the disciples when He instructed them, "You feed them!"
 - b. Jesus was clearly assigning responsibility to them to give what resources they had to help solve the problem at hand.
 - c. The disciples' focus on the natural as opposed to the spiritual showed itself. They still could not see beyond the physical world.
 - d. Here is what we need to consider: The response of the disciples seems relatable, but don't forget the context!
 - i. They had just returned from a short-term mission when they had been sent out two-by-two and accomplished some amazing things such as casting out devils and healing the sick (6:13).
 - ii. How quickly these men had forgotten what God had just done through them! Is there an application for us today?
 - e. A key to accomplishing great things for God is remembering that we have a responsibility to actually do something. Too many are content sitting and waiting on God to act. God most often works through people who are on the move for Him.
- 3. Essential 3: You must trust Christ to use your resources (vs.38-44).
 - a. Notice what Jesus does beginning in verse 39:
 - i. Jesus organizes the people (vs. 39-40).
 - ii. Jesus evaluates the resources available (vs. 41a).
 - iii. Jesus gave thanks for those resources (vs. 41b).
 - iv. Jesus returned the resources to the disciples (vs. 41c).
 - b. What can we take away from this?
 - i. The duty of the disciple is to bring his resources to Christ. No matter how little we may have, it is needed, and we are held responsible for bringing it to Christ.
 - ii. Christ wants disciples who will give what resources they have. It is the resources of His disciples that God uses to show His love and His truth to others.
 - iii. We can follow the pattern of Jesus from this text as we strive to minister to others with the resources we have:
 - 1. Take them: surrendering them to Christ and His purposes.
 - 2. Thank God: acknowledge Him as the source of the resources.
 - 3. Use them: giving all we have to those who are so hungry, lost, and in such desperate need throughout the world.

CONCLUSION: Verse 42 is beautifully simple ending to this event, "They did all eat and were filled."

- ⇒ We must give what we have to Christ and then trust Him to multiply it enough to meet the need. Whatever we share, God multiplies. God can take a little and make it go a long way.
- ⇒ When we share what Christ gives, He fills everyone. The needs of people are met. But it all depends upon one thing: our sharing. We must share what God gives.